

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02948 190818Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 MCE-00 EB-08 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1768

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA

USMTM RIYADH

SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T JIDDA 2948

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA, US

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF SAUDI AIRCRAFT TO YAR

REF: STATE 92308, JIDDA 2859

1. OFFICIAL IN MODA FOREIGN PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT TOLD POL COUN ON APRIL 17 THAT SAG WANTED TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH TRANSFER OF THE FOUR F-5B'S TO YAR AND THAT LETTER WAS ON ITS WAY THROUGH CHANNELS TO EMBASSY REQUESTING FINAL AUTHORIZATION. LETTER DATED 9 JUMAD AWAL 1398 (APRIL 16, 1978) AND SIGNED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN HAS NOW BEEN RECEIVED BY EMBASSY, RENEWING REQUEST FOR TRANSFER AND ASKING THAT WE CONVEY THE REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

2. IN REGARD TO AGUSTA BELL HELICOPTERS FOR YAR, FOREIGN PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID THAT REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER HELICOPTERS WAS ALSO ON ITS WAY TO USG THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS AND THAT MODA WOULD APPRECIATE SPEEDY U.S. ACTION. SAG WISHES TO TRANSFER THREE HELICOPTERS BY END OF JUNE. HANGARS WILL BE

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COMPLETED IN YEMEN FOR THESE HELICOPTERS AND SAG DOES NOT WANT TO LEAVE THEM UNOCCUPIED AND GIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOVIET AIRCRAFT TO BE MOVED INTO THEM.

3. OFFICIAL SAID MODA WOULD BE DISCUSSING SUBJECT OF TRAINING FOR YAR PILOTS WITH CHUSMTM ON APRIL 22. SAG WISHES TO TRAIN 15 YAR PILOTS ON F-5. HOWEVER, IT

PREFERS TO PAY TO HAVE THESE PILOTS TRAINED IN U.S., RATHER THAN IN SAUDI ARABIA. REASONS FOR THIS WERE THAT (A) THERE WERE NO VACANCIES IN SAUDI PROGRAM, (B) SAG DOES NOT WANT YEMINI PILOTS TO SEE SAUDI F-5'S WITH THEIR SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT AND COMPARE THEM WITH VERSION OF F-5 YAR IS GETTING, (C) SAG IS CONCERNED THAT SECURITY OF SAUDI F-5'S MAY BE COMPROMISED, AND MOST IMPORTANT (D) SAG WANTS TO FURNISH OPPORTUNITY FOR YAR PILOTS TO BE INFLUENCED BY U.S. OFFICIAL STRESSED THIS LAST POINT, SAYING THAT PILOTS TRAINED IN U.S. WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN COUNTERING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN YAR. HE NOTED THAT YARG HAD WANTED TO SEND EIGHT OF THESE PILOTS TO USSR FOR TRAINING ON MIG-21 AND HE THOUGHT SOME OF 15 PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS MAY EVEN HAVE STUDIED IN USSR. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT MODA WANTED TO BEGIN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR YAR PILOTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN PREPARATION FOR THEIR EVENTUAL F-5 TRAINING IN U.S. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT MODA DID NOT WANT THEM IN NORTHROP PROGRAM AND PROPOSED PUTTING THEM AUGUSTA BELL PROGRAM INSTEAD. MODA WOULD ACQUIRE SPACES IN AB PROGRAM BY PUTTING APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF SAUDI STUDENTS IN NORTHROP PROGRAM. WHILE YEMENI STUDENTS WERE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM, PAPERWORK COULD BE PROCESSED FOR THEIR TRANSFER TO U.S.

4. OFFICIAL SAID EVEN MORE PRESSING WAS MATTER OF TWO
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YAR PILOTS WHO HAVE JUST GRADUATED FROM KING FAISAL AIR ACADEMY. THEY ARE CURRENTLY ON LEAVE IN YEMEN, BUT MODA NEEDS TO FIND WAY TO BEGIN F-5 TRAINING FOR THEM IMMEDIATELY. MODA WANTS TO SEND THEM TO U.S.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Litigation History:
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